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ROSWELL DWIGHT HITCHCOCK, D.D., LL.D.

BORN AT EAST MACHIAS, MAINE, AUGUST 15, 1817.
DIED AT FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS, JUNE 16, 1887.

By the sudden death of the Rev. Dr. Hitchcock, New York has lost one of her best citizens. His special work had for a generation been that of a theological teacher, and to this was added, for the last seven years, a responsible and engrossing office of administration in the institution to which, in the professor's chair, his services had long been given. But he was widely known outside of the walls of the Union Seminary. He had fame as a preacher ; he was sought as a platform orator ; he could be counted on as an uncompromising and ardent patriot ; he graced every social gathering for which his absorbing duties allowed him time and strength ; he exerted a distinct personal influence in the community as an earnest, accomplished Christian gentleman.

In each function he excelled not only by reason of the special gift necessary to each, but also by virtue of his broad sympathies and his large manhood. All public affairs had interest to him. His marked concern in social questions, his conscientious discharge of political duties, his steady, fresh zeal for whatever promised to increase the sum of human knowledge,—all illustrate the quality

of his citizenship. He was a scholar without being a recluse. His care for sound learning and for progress was not theoretical or impersonal. It was one of the forms of his loyalty, represented his sense of the dignity of man, stood for a claim upon the divine inheritance of true knowledge and wisdom, and was constantly guided and tempered by his unswerving moral and religious conviction, and by his genuine regard for his brother-men. His human feelings were keen and quick. This appeared in the warmth of his friendships and the geniality of his home-life; it appeared in his intercourse with his students, in his pulpit-services, where he used doctrine to make character; and it appeared as well in the lively response of his heart to all that stirs men. There was a delicate appreciation in his soul of what was fine and beautiful, and a heroic fire that promptly answered to heroism,—whether shown by soldiers marching to the seat of war or by intrepid explorers who braved the cruel North. Besides this, he could communicate something of his emotion to others without losing his self-command,—a few clear-cut, ringing sentences compelled the attention and the feeling of his listeners. No one who saw and heard him when Greely came home,—or when DeLong was brought home,—will soon forget it.

He was so true a citizen, so strong and good a man, that his death is a public bereavement. We may take some comfort from the thought that he did what in him lay to perpetuate among us the qualities and forces that made his life the fruitful thing it was. But the first strong impulse is to lament not merely the personal loss,

but also the impoverishment that befalls a city, or a land, when such men vanish out of it.

At a meeting of the Council of the American Geographical Society held at the Society's rooms, 11 W. 29th St., June 20, 1887, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That, in common with all who had the privilege of knowing him, we have learned with profound sorrow of the death of our distinguished associate, the Rev. Dr. Roswell D. Hitchcock, for many years a Vice-President of this Society.

Resolved, That we recognize the deep interest he took in this Society, and his readiness always to labor for its welfare ; that it was chiefly through his exertions that the survey of the eastern and comparatively unknown portion of Palestine was planned and carried out ; that when we consider his extensive and varied learning, his aptitude as an instructor, his rare gifts as an orator ; the interest he took in public affairs, the influence he exercised over them, the inestimable value of his services in this city in aid of the struggle for the preservation of the Union ; his broad and catholic views as a thinker, his wide toleration, his firm and unyielding adherence to his conviction of the right, and the gentleness of his manner ; we feel not only that this Society has lost one of its brightest ornaments, but the community in which he lived a great citizen.

Resolved, That a Committee of Three, to consist of the President, Charles P. Daly, and two Vice-Presidents, Gen. Geo. W. Cullum and Francis A. Stout, Esq., be requested to attend the funeral services at Fall River on Tuesday, June 21, 1887.

Resolved, That the President be requested to prepare a memorial of Dr. Hitchcock, to be read at the next meeting of the Society, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

EGBERT L. VIELE,
Secretary.
